Promotion of superstitions in TV serials

2162. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a number of serials shown in many TV. channels are promoting superstitions among people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government would take in this regard to correct the distortion?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan does not consider and telecast serials which may promote directly or indirectly superstition among the people at large. However, all the TV channels are required to directly adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code *inter alia* stipulates that no programme should be carried in the cable service which encourages superstitions or blind belief.

(c) An inter-Ministerial committee has been constituted by the Government to look into the violations of. Programme Code and Advertising Code. The Committee either *suo-motu* or on receipt of complaint, examines cases of violation of the Codes and recommends action to be taken by the Government. Show cause notices are issued in the first instance to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programmes in violation of the Codes. Suitable action as per law is taken in deserving cases. This is an ongoing process.

Cross-media holding for Prasar Bharati

2163. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the statute on broadcast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether media houses are opposed to certain restrictions on cross-media holdings and preferential carriage for Prasar Bharati; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?